

Robin Hood and Little John;

B E I N G

An Account of their first Meeting, their fierce Encounter and Conquest. To which is added, Their friendly Agreement, and how he came to be call'd *Little John*.

To the Tune of, *Arthur a Bland*.

7

Licens'd and Enter'd according to Order.



When Robin Hood was about twenty years old,
with a hey down, down and a down,
He happen'd to meet Little John,
a jolly brisk Blade, right fit for the trade,
for he was a lusty young Man.

Though he was call'd Little, his limbs they were large,
with a hey, &c.
And his stature was seven foot high;
where-ever he came, they quak'd at his name,
for soon he wou'd make them to stir.

How they came acquainted, I'll tell you in brief,
with a hey, &c.
If you will but listen a while;
for this very jest, amongst all the rest,
I think it may cause you to smile:

Bold Robin Hood said to his jolly Bowmen,
with a hey, &c.
Stay tarry you here in this grove,
and see that you all, observe well my call,
while thorough the forest I rove.

We have had no sport for these fourteen long days,
with a hey, &c.
Therefore now abroad will I go;
now should I be beat, and cannot retreat,
My horn I will presently blow.

Then did he shake hands with his merry Men all,
with a hey, &c.
And bid them at present good-by;
then as near a brook his journey he took,
A Stranger he chanc'd to espy:



They happen'd to meet on a long narrow bridge,
with a hey, &c.
And neither of them wou'd give way;
quoth bold Robin Hood, and sturdy good,
I'll show you right Nottingham play;

With that from his quiver an arrow he drew,
with a hey, &c.
A broad arrow with a goose-wing:
the Stranger reply'd, I'll lick the thy hide,
If thou offer to touch the string.

Quoth bold Robin Hood, Thou do'st prate like an Ass,
with a hey, &c.
For were I to bend but my bow,
I could send a dart quite through thy proud heart,
Before thou could'st strike me one blow.

You talk like a Coward, the Stranger reply'd,
with a hey, &c.
Well arm'd with a long bow you stand,
to shoot at my breast, while I, I protest,
Have nought but a staff in my hand.

The name of a Coward, quoth Robin, I scorn,
with a hey, &c.
Wherefore my long bow I'll lay by,
and now for thy sake a staff I will take,
The truth of thy Manhood to try.

Then Robin Hood kept to a thicket of trees,
with a hey, &c.
And chose him a staff of ground oak;
now this being done, away he did run
To the Stranger, and merrily spoke:



Lo, for my staff, it is luff and tough,
with a hey, ec.
Now here on the bridge we will play;
whoever falls in, the other shall win
The battle, and so we'll away.

With all my whole heart to the humour I give,
with a hey, ec.
I scorn in the least to give out:
this said, they fell not without more dispute,
And their staves they did flourish about.

And first Robin he gave the Stranger a bang,
with a hey, ec.
So hard that it made his bones ring:
the Stranger he said, **This** must be repaid;
I'll give you as good as you bring:

So long as I am able to handle my staff,
with a hey, ec.
To die in your debt, friend, I scorn:
then to it both goes, and follow'd their blows,
As if they'd been thrashing of corn.

The Stranger gave Robin a crack on the crown,
with a hey, ec.
which caused the blood to appear;
then Robin enrag'd, more fiercely engag'd,
And follow'd his blows more severe;

So thick and so fast he did lay it on him,
with a hey, ec.
With passionate fury and eye,
at every stroke he made him to smother,
As if he had been all on a fire.

Then into a fury the Stranger he grew,
with a hey, ec.
And gave him a damnable look;
and with it a blow, that laid him full low,
And tumbl'd him into the brook.

I prithee, good fellow, where art thou now?
with a hey, ec.
The Stranger in laughter he cry'd:
quoth bold Robin Hood, Good faith in the flood,
And floating along with the tide.

I needs must acknowledge thou art a brave Soul,
with a hey, ec.
With thee I'll no longer contend;
for needs must I say, thou hast got the day,
Our battle shall be at an end.

Then, then to the bank he did presently wade,
with a hey, ec.
And pull'd himself out by a thorn;
which done, at the last, he blow'd a loud blast
Straitways on his fine bugle-horn:

The echo of which, through the ballies did die,
with a hey, ec.
At which his stout Women appear'd,
all cloath'd in green, most gay to be seen,
So up to their Master they steer'd:

What's the matter? quoth William Stuteley;
with a hey, ec.
Good Master, you are wet to the shin?
No matter, quoth he, the Lad which you see,
In fighting he tumbl'd me in.

He shall not go scot free, the others repl'd,
with a hey, ec.
So straight they were seizing him there,
to duck him likewise; but Robin Hood cries,
He is a stout fellow, forbear.

There's no one shall wrong thee, friend, be not afraid,
with a hey, ec.
These Women upon me do wait;
there's threescore and nine; if thou wilt be mine,
Thou shalt have my liberty straight,

And other accoutrements fit for my Train;
with a hey, ec.
Speak up, jolly Blade, be't fear,
I'll reach thee also the use of the bow,
To shoot at the far fallow-deer.

Here is my hand, the Stranger repl'd,
with a hey, ec.
I'll serve you with all my whole heart;
my name is John Little, a Man of good mettle,
Be'r doubt me, for I'll play my part.

His name shall be alter'd, quoth William Stuteley,
with a hey, ec.
And I will his Godfather be;
prepare then a feast, and none of the least,
For we will be merry, quoth he.

They presently fetch'd in a brace of fat dogs,
with a hey, ec.
With humming strong liquor likewise;
they lov'd what was good: so in the green wood
This pretty sweet Babe they baptize.

He was, I must tell you, but seven foot high,
with a hey, ec.
And may be an ell in the waste;
a pretty sweet Lad; much feasting they had:
Bold Robin the Christ'ning grac'd,

With all his Women, which stood in a ring;
with a hey, ec.
And were of the Nottingham Weed;
brave Stuteley comes then, with seven yeomen;
And did in this manner proceed:

This Infant was called John Little, quoth he,
with a hey, ec.
Which name shall be changed anon,
the words we'll transpose, so where-ever he goes,
His name shall be call'd Little John.

They all with a shout made the elements ring,
with a hey, ec.
So soon as this Office was o're,
to feasting they went with true merriment,
And ripl'd strong liquor gallope.

Then Robin he took the pretty sweet Babe,
with a hey, ec.
And cloath'd him from top to the toe,
in garments of green, most gay to be seen,
And gave him a curious long bow.

Thou shalt be an Archer as well as the best,
with a hey, ec.
And range in the green wood with us,
where we'll not want gold, nor silver, behold,
While Bishops have ought in their purse.

We'll live here like Esquires or Lords of Renown,
with a hey, ec.
Without e're a foot of free land;
we feast on good cheer, with wine, ale and beer,
And e'ry thing at our command.

Then musick and dancing did finish the day,
with a hey, ec.
At length when the sun waxed low,
then all the whole Train the grobe did refrain,
And unto their caves they did go.

And so ever after, as long as he liv'd,
with a hey down, down and a down,
Although he was proper and tall,
yet nevertheless, the truth to express,
Still Little John they did him call.



L O N D O N :

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